

tobacco companies and that indirect advertising, naming Championship Cup after brand name or use of logo without display of the actual product should be allowed.

Train Services from Kerala to Howrah

217. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that people of Kerala are facing hardships in the absence of Superfast train from Kerala to Howrah;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make Howrah-Trivandrum and Howrah-Cochin Express as superfast thereby reduce the running time;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also propose to increase the frequency of the trains;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some representations have been received for a superfast train between Kerala and Howrah.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does Not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Operational and resource constraints.

Introduction of Summer Special Trains

218. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of summer special trains introduced during the summer period, zone-wise; and

(b) the number of passengers carried by these summer special trains, zone-wise, till date ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Figures regarding number of passengers carried

by individual trains/specials are not maintained.

Guwahati Rajdhani Express

219. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any steps to run Guwahati Rajdhani daily instead of triweekly;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to remove the hurdles to run it daily;

(d) whether the Government are considering to run this train under the jurisdiction of N.F. Railway; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The frequency of 2423/2424 Guwahati Rajdhani was increased from weekly to tri-weekly from 26.1.96. It will also be extended to Dibrugarh Town once a week during 1997-98. However, presently it is not feasible to run it daily due to operational and resource constraints.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) New Delhi-Guwahati triweekly Rajdhani Express is maintained at New Delhi alongwith biweekly Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express. As both the trains are not daily, common maintenance point at New Delhi enables optimal utilisation of facilities as well as coaches kept as maintenance spare. Therefore, at present, it is not desirable to shift maintenance of Guwahati-Rajdhani to Guwahati.

Running of Trains in Kerala

220. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the trains in Kerala are running irregularly; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The punctuality performance of trains running in Kerala is satisfactory. However, the running of trains get affected at times due to reasons such as accidents, agitations, alarm-chain pulling, miscreant acti-

vities, equipment failures, human failures, law and order situation and bad weather etc.

(b) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives are also being launched.

New Telephone Connection for Andhra Pradesh

221. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to provide 2.15 lakh new telephones in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the areas likely to be covered;

(c) the total amount to be involved therein; and

(d) the actual demand of telephones in the State and to what extent the State Government's demand is likely to be met by providing 2.15 lakh telephones during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Department has set a target of providing 2.15 lakhs new Telephone connections in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98.

(b) It is planned to provide new telephone connections in all the 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The amount involved in providing 2.15 lakhs new telephone connections is about Rs. 522.6 crores.

(d) The waiting list for telephone connections as on 31.3.97 is 242592. By providing 2.15 lakh new telephone connections during 1997-98, 88% of the waiting list as on 31.3.97. However, this is subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

DD Centres in Karnataka

222. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Doordarshan Centres in Karnataka, alongwith the capacity thereof as on June 30, 1997

location-wise;

(b) the details of programmes prepared by these centres during 1996-97 and upto June 30, 1997;

(c) whether the programmes prepared by the local talents are telecast by these centres;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to telecast such programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) There are two Kendras in Karnataka – one at Bangalore and another at Gulbarga with capacity of 10 KW and 1KW respectively.

(b) The details are as under :

Doordarshan Kendra : 1575
Bangalore

Doordarshan Kendra : 91
Gulbarga

(c) The programmes prepared by these kendras by inclusion/participation of local talent are telecast depending upon the programme requirement and availability of suitable time slot.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Transportation facilities at Moula Ali Railway Station

223. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to stop transshipment from Moula Ali Railway Station since July 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether this would adversely affect the farmers in the district due to shortages of fertilisers and transport bottlenecks of the movement of rice and other agricultural products;

(c) whether the Government received any representation regarding continuation of transshipment facility at Moula Ali Railway Station for traffic destined to and originating from Nizamabad till the gauge conversion in this section is completed;